

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides novel isolated SECX polynucleotides and the membrane-associated or secreted polypeptides encoded by the SECX polynucleotides. Also provided are the antibodies that immunospecifically bind to a SECX polypeptide or any derivative, variant, mutant or fragment of the SECX polypeptide, polynucleotide or antibody. The invention additionally provides methods in which the SECX polypeptide, polynucleotide and antibody are utilized in the detection and treatment of a broad range of pathological states, as well as to other uses.